

Schoodic Byway Corridor Meeting
Monday, December 21, 2015
8:30 – 10:30 AM
Gordon's Wharf

Agenda

Attending: Eileen Bader, Jen Boothroyd, Barbara Bowen, Obie Buell, Peter Drinkwater, Gary Edwards, Dick Fisher, Alan Gray, Larry Johannesman, Bryan Kaenrath, Barbara Shanahan

Minutes: Minutes from the October meeting were unavailable for review, so approval was postponed until the next meeting.

Larry updated the group on upcoming projects in 2016. These include:

- The Dorcas Library sign will be finalized soon
- The Gateway project will be finished this spring including:
 - The pathway from the rest area to the open field
 - Improvements to the field
 - The sidewalk to the interpretive signs
 - New landscaping
 - Kiosk
 - Kid's Quest train exhibit, which will be completed with old DOT equipment and interpretive signs
- Winter Harbor Downtown green space in parking area with kiosk. This area will serve multiple purposes, including:
 - bus stop
 - scenic view
 - outdoor classroom
 - info center
 - Barbara S. noted that Winter Harbor Town Manager is very supportive
- Sign for Taunton Bay Estuary
 - Granite sign
 - Flagstone surface

Larry noted that if any of the interpretive signs along the Byway require maintenance, he should be contacted to organize repairs.

Peter showed the group a video that has been produced by the Schoodic Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, promoting the area, the Byway, and local attractions. Jen said she would add a link to the video to the Byway website.

The status of the Schoodic Woods and Trails was discussed. All trails are open for winter use for biking, skiing, and snowshoeing. 100 parking spaces and a pit toilet are available for those using the trails. Camping at Schoodic Woods requires a pass from the National Park Service.

The group discussed ideas for Byway involvement in the upcoming year-long celebration of the Acadia National Park Centennial. Ideas included:

- Involving the area schools
 - Possibly including some sort of display outside Sumner High School (balloons, posters?)
- Having the Schoodic Byway become an official partner in the Centennial
 - Peter will do this

The group agreed to consider some other ideas and discuss them at the next meeting.

The group discussed potential new partnerships to explore. Ideas included:

- Hancock Grammar School
- Schoodic Marina in Winter Harbor
- Sumner High marine studies/boatbuilding program

The group discussed the need for a multi-modal map or maps of the Byway area that shows trails, boat launches, topographic info, similar to the maps for the Schoodic Woods area from the Park Service.

- Jen will find out if there is any MDOT planning money that can be used for this
- Larry noted that this might correlate with the Ped-Pedal-Paddle project, and maybe Julie Isbill can help with this when she gets involved with the group in April.

A grant award for staff time means that Julie Isbill will be working with the group starting in April. She will be providing technical assistance and planning expertise.

The group noted that the big Bike Maine event in September 2016 will likely include at least a portion of Schoodic Byway, although the route has not been finalized.

Barbara B. told the group about the UMaine marine/aquaculture incubator on Taunton Bay, and said that she could contact them to arrange a tour if anyone is interested in the future.

The group discussed long-term projects to focus on as the Byway transitions from development of infrastructure to ongoing maintenance in the future. Ideas included:

- Scenic easements to protect Byway views
- Approaching towns in the region ahead of town meeting season about financial support which could be used as matching funds for future funding proposals
 - The group determined to re-examine this idea at the next meeting.

The group expressed their appreciation to Larry for all his hard work and expertise in making so many of the Byway projects come to fruition.

The next meeting will be held Monday, March 7th at the Winter Harbor Town Office. Gary will set the agenda and send out a reminder. Barbara S. will be in Florida.

Barbara S. reminded the group that e-mail announcements should be sent through the Byway's Google Group; www.schoodicbyway.googlegroups.com

